

## **Minutes of Mt. Vernon Historic Preservation Commission**

September 15, 2018

The HPC met in open meeting at 9:15 am at the Visitors Center

Present - Leah Rogers, Mary Evans, Sue Hargus, Ed Sauter, Caroline Kelley, Sara Kelly, Hugh Lifson, Suzette Astley

Visitor - none

Tabled approval of Minutes from 8-18-2018 on questions from Hugh Lifson regarding the discussion of Cornell's handling of the memorial obligation regarding the two brick houses that were demolished and the recommendation concerning the paintings that might be available of the brick houses for display in the new building. Because the secretary (Guy Booth) was not in attendance, the discussion and the approval of the minutes was tabled until our next regular meeting in October. Motion to table (Sauter) and 2nd (Kelly). Vote - unanimous approval in favor of motion.

### **Design Reviews -**

1. Sign Permit for 101 1st Street NW (Commercial District) - The submitted sign meets the City's sign ordinance. It was noted that this is a vinyl sign being applied over the existing vinyl sign and that it is mainly a change in color. Some discussion about the owner's limits with the real estate company's logo as far as font. Motion to approve for a Certificate of No Material Effect (Kelly), 2nd (Kelley). Vote - unanimous approval of motion.

2. Sign Permit for Cornell College for the football field renovation project (Cornell College District)- It was noted that we had seen the preliminary plans for the sign as part of the field's renovation back in the winter and in review of the current plan, the motion was made to approve the sign for a Certificate of Appropriateness (Motion - Sauter, 2nd Lifson; Vote - unanimous approval of motion).

### **New Business -**

Commission vacancies - Rogers noted that Sara Kelly and Janet Budack are both going off the Commission as their terms are expiring and they do not wish to renew their terms. The Commission is grateful for their many years of service. Rogers noted that one of the vacancies must be filled with a property owner in the Commercial District. General discussion about possible people to contact. Rogers asked those whose terms are up in September whether they will stay on the HPC or not including: Astley, Sauter, Murphy, Hargus, Budack, and Booth. Of these, Janet Budack has decided to not renew her term. Rogers noted that this is now two vacancies to fill and also noted that if the rest were willing to renew, this did not stop them from resigning at a later date if they need to leave at some point.

Update on new building permit process - Rogers conveyed discussion with Chris Nosbisch and Matt Siders concerning the new application process. The Commission was made aware that the only

apparent downside may be that we will have even less time to respond to design reviews since it now goes through the County first and then City Hall will notify us. However, we will need to wait and see how the new process really works to see if there are actually problems.

#### Old Business -

Caroline Kelley reported that the brick house tour is cancelled for this fall because some houses had to drop out and things were not coming together quickly enough to make it work. She noted that it might just be better in the future to do it every other year anyway. She is working towards a tour in 2019.

Hugh Lifson reported that the Monticello, Iowa, tour will have to be rescheduled for another time. Rogers noted the Jeff Streitz of Cornell offered to give us a tour of the clock tower on Campus. This might be a good substitute for a fall tour and perhaps can be expanded to the bell tower and maybe other buildings on campus? Rogers will contact Streitz to get in touch with Lifson to organize.

Brick Houses NRHP nominations - data collection is nearly complete; hoping to get data collection wrapped up shortly as the first deadline for the draft nomination submittals is December 3rd. Evans noted that the Linn County Records office has been very cooperative and helpful with the property searches. Two properties are still left with data needs.

General discussion about looking into other communities' guidelines concerning public art.

Next Regular Meeting - October 6, 2018, Saturday, 9:15 am at the Visitors Center

Meeting adjourned - 9:40 am